



RULING OF THE CHAIR

BREACH OF PRIVILEGE--OBSTRUCTION IN THE CONDUCT OF BUSINESS OF SENATE

During sitting of the Senate held on 4th November, 2015, an adjournment motion was set down in the Orders of the Day to discuss the statement of Edward Joseph Snowden, former CIA official, that GCHQ, a secret agency of Britain, who allegedly used to spy on the communication data of Pakistan, as reported in Daily Express dated 7th October, 2015. Due to the fact no Ministry was ready to own the subject matter of the admitted adjournment motion, the Chairman ruled as under:-

“The Adjournment Motion is not being owned by any Ministry. The matter was referred to the Cabinet Division, being the relevant ministry; however, the said Division declined to own the same. Issue notice to the Secretary Cabinet Division to appear before the Committee of Rules and Privileges for not complying with the directions of the Senate Secretariat and for not taking up the issue, hence causing obstruction in the conduct of business of the Senate as due to this reason, agenda item No.10 had to be deferred. The Chairman of the Privileges Committee be informed that this matter should be taken up immediately and a report in this regard is placed in the House by Tuesday. I will not allow business to be vitted away like this.”

MIAN RAZA RABBANI
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Chairman Senate